REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 1-3, and 5 have been amended. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form. New claims 8-16 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the February 24, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kirino et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,873,955 (hereinafter the Kirino reference) or Ihara et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,028,280 (hereinafter the Ihara reference). The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over each of Yasuhiro et al., (Yasuhiro, Japanese Patent Document NO. 04-228545, cited by the Applicants in the IDS submitted November 25, 2002, hereinafter the Yasuhiro reference) or Norio et al., (Norio, Japanese Patent Document NO. 62-112759, cited by the Applicants in the IDS submitted November 25, 2002, hereinafter the Norio reference). The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Norio reference. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner objected to claim 4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that such a claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, the Applicants have rewritten in independent form claim 4 in accordance with the Examiner's remarks. Applicants also slightly amended claim 4 for reasons of antecedant basis. The Applicants believe that independent claim 4 as amended is in condition for allowance.

Amended Independent claim 1 recites:

A magnetostriction control alloy sheet being a **temp r rolled alloy sheet** used in a part for a color Braun tube such as a shadow mask, and characterized in that the magnetostriction λ after **softening** and annealing is between ($-15x10^{-6}$) and ($25x10^{-6}$).

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Kirino reference or the Ihara reference.

Neither the Kirino reference or the Ihara reference disclose, teach, or suggest the magnetostriction control alloy sheet specified in independent claim 1, as amended. Unlike the magnetostriction control alloy sheet specified in independent claim 1, as amended, the the Kirino reference and the Ihara reference do not show "a magnetostriction control alloy sheet being a **temper rolled alloy sheet** used in a part for a color Braun tube such as a shadow mask, and characterized in that the magnetostriction λ after softening and annealing is between ($-15x10^{-6}$) and ($25x10^{-6}$)".

Both the Kirino reference and the Ihara reference teach the use of alloy thin films that are sputtered on a substrate. For example, The Kirino reference states "To produce the magnetic head, first, **a soft magnetic thin film 1 to 5 μm** was formed on **a single crystalline ferrite substrate** 2 having a roughened surface by sputtering using Ar as a discharge gas." (Col. 6, lines 21-24). The Ihara reference states "a sputtering was conducted on a ceramic substrate using the above-mentioned alloy target while periodically mixing nitrogen gas N_2 in the argon gas which was used as the inert sputtering gas, whereby a compositionally modulated nitride alloy film was formed on the ceramic substrate such that nitride layers of 10 nm thick per layer and non-nitride layers of 10 nm thick per layer were alternately

formed." (Col. 10, lines 19-26). The Kirino reference and the Ihara reference make no mention whatsoever of a magnetostriction control alloy **sheet**.

A sheet in the context of the present invention is described in Webster's dictionary as "of, relating to, or concerned with the making of sheet metal."

A thin film, as described by both the Kirino reference and the Ihara reference, is known to one skilled in the art of thin film processes as a deposited film that is typically less than 25 μm.

A thin film, as described by both the Kirino reference and the Ihara reference, that is deposited on a single crystalline ferrite substrate or a ceramic substrate can not be subjected to further mechanical processing such as "temper rolling" and "softening" as recited in independent claim 1, as amended, of the present invention.

The Kirino reference and the Ihara reference do not show "a magnetostriction control alloy sheet being a **temper rolled alloy sheet** used in a part for a color Braun tube such as a shadow mask, and characterized in that the magnetostriction λ after **softening** and annealing is between ($-15x10^{-6}$) and ($25x10^{-6}$)". Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over the above-cited reference.

Claims 2-3, and 5 depend directly from independent claim 1, as amended. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-3, and 5 distinguish over the above-cited references for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Dependent claim 2 recites:

A magnetostriction control alloy sheet according to claim 1 incorporates C at 0.01 wt.% or less, Ni at 30 to 36 wt%, Co at 1 to 5.0 wt.%, and Cr at 0.1 to 2 wt.%, and also incorporates Si at 0.001 to 0.10 wt.% and/or Mn at 0.001 to 1.0 wt.%, the

remainder comprising Fe and unavoidable impurities.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over each of the Yasuhiro reference or the Norio reference.

Claim 2 depends from independent claim 1, as amended. As stated above, independent claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over the above cited references. Neither the Yasuhiro reference or the Norio reference disclose, teach, or suggest the magnetostriction control alloy sheet specified in claim 2. Unlike the magnetostriction control alloy sheet specified in claim 2, the Yasuhiro reference and the Norio reference do not show "a magnetostriction control alloy sheet being a **temper rolled alloy sheet**".

Both the Yasuhiro reference and the Norio reference teach the formation of an alloy sheet by a "casting" method. For example, The Yasuhiro reference states "This material can be produced by casting a molten metal of the above component system into a slab by a continuous casting method". (Absract).

The Yasuhiro reference and the Norio reference do not show "a magnetostriction control alloy sheet being a **temper rolled alloy sheet**". Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2, distinguishes over the above-cited references.

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Norio reference. Claims 3 and 5 depend from independent claim 1, as amended. As stated above, independent claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over the above cited references. The Norio reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the magnetostriction control alloy sheet specified in independent claim 1, as

amended. Unlike the magnetostriction control alloy sheet specified in independent claim 1, as amended, the Norio reference does not show "a magnetostriction control alloy sheet being a **t mp r roll d alloy sheet**". Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 5 distinguish over the above-cited reference. New claims 8-16 have been added to further claim Applicant's invention.

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendment and remarks place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

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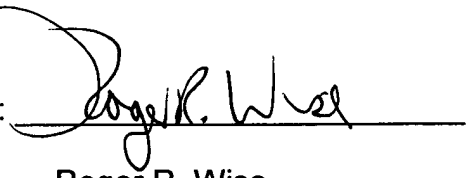
By: 

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